

REMARKS

No claims are added, amended, or canceled. Claims 1–17 remain in the application.

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The Action of May 24, 2005 was an Ex Parte Quayle action, and prosecution on the merits is thereby closed. Applicants submit this amendment to address formal issues raised by the Examiner in the office action of May 24, 2005.

The Examiner has objected to the application for the following reasons:

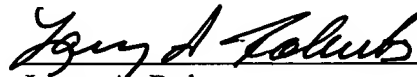
The word “spherical” is missing from the amendment to Col. 2 and Claim 1. Also, 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c) requires an explanation, *i.e.* line and page, of the support in the disclosure for any changes/amendments made.

The word “spherical” has intentionally been omitted from the amendment to Col. 2 and Claim 1, because the term is inaccurate. As can clearly be seen in FIG. 5, a substantial portion of the “sphere” is missing. This figure is corroborated by the text that appears at Col. 3, of the patent, lines 17–20: “The coupler guide 16 has four guide walls 20, 22, 24 and 26 which converge rearwardly into a circular opening of the spherical housing 6.” If the housing 6 were truly a complete sphere, there would be no opening, and no way to insert the double-ring coupler 18 into the housing. To present the “circular opening” into which the end of the double-ring coupler 18 can be introduced, a portion of the sphere is removed. Hence applicants have more accurately described the housing 6 in the specification as a “partial sphere”. Further, since the term “spherical” is inaccurate, it has been deleted from Claim 1 as not supported by the specification.

The Office Action of May 24, 2005, set forth a shortened statutory period for response of two months. Thus the original period for response expired on July 24, 2005. A request for a two-month extension of time for filing a response, together with the fee required by 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(2), is enclosed. The time for filing a response is thereby extended to September 24, 2005. Since September 24, 2005 falls on a Saturday, the foregoing response, filed the following Monday, September 26, 2005, is timely filed.

The claims having been previously indicated as being allowable, the foregoing is believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 24, 2005. For the reasons set forth above, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested, and allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted:



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Attorney Docket: 01504-0111 (41970-252798)